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811-00816 Branch 18







September 10, 2008

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Securities and Exchange Commission 450 Fifth Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20549

SEP 1 1 2008

Washington, DC 111

Re:

American Century Investment Management, Inc. ("ACIM") American Century Mutual Funds, Inc. d/b/a American Century Ultra Fund

## Ladies and Gentlemen:

Accompanying this letter for filing pursuant to Section 33 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, is a copy of the following document:

Complaint filed by plaintiff in the case styled as <u>Laura Seidl</u>, <u>v. American Century</u> <u>Companies</u>, Inc., et al

Please acknowledge receipt of this filing by file-stamping the enclosed extra copy of this letter and returning it to me in the envelope provided. Please call me at (816) 340-4047 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this filing.

Very truly yours,

Jennie Clarke
Vice President and
Assistant General Counsel

American Century Services, LLC

MVC:ce

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THOMSON REUTERS

CRYSTAL G. HOWARD (SBN 224627) 1 SIMMONSCOOPER LLC 100 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 1350 2 El Segundo, California 90245 3 Telephone: 310-322-3555 Facsimile: 310-322-3655 E-filing choward@simmonscooper.com 4 5 Attorney for Plaintiff [Additional Counsel Listed on Signature Page] 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 7 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 8 CASE NO. 9 LAURA SEIDL, individually, derivatively and on behalf of all others similarly situated, 10 Plaintiff, 11 - against -12 **VERIFIED CLASS ACTION AND** AMERICAN CENTURY COMPANIES, INC., AMERICAN 13 CENTURY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, INC., JAMES E. DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT STOWERS, JR., JONATHAN S. THOMAS, THOMAS A. 14 Brown, Andrea C. Hall, Donald H. Pratt, Gale and A. SAYERS, M. JEANNINE STRANDJORD, TIMOTHY S. 15 WEBSTER, WILLIAM M. LYONS, MARK MALLON, **JURY DEMAND** WADE SLOME, BRUCE WIMBERLY, and JERRY 16 SULLIVAN, 17 Defendants, 18 - and -19 AMERICAN CENTURY MUTUAL FUNDS, INC., doing business as AMERICAN CENTURY ULTRA FUND, 20 Nominal Defendant. 21 22 Plaintiff alleges: **OVERVIEW** 23 24 1. This lawsuit arises from criminal acts committed by the defendants ("Defendants") when they unlawfully invested money entrusted to them by the plaintiff 25 ("Plaintiff") in an illegal gambling business. These unlawful investments suffered significant 26 losses when the government began arresting principals of the gambling enterprises during a law 27 enforcement crackdown beginning in the summer of 2006. 28

2. Plaintiff is a shareholder in nominal defendant American Century Mutual Funds, Inc., through its American Century Ultra Fund (the "Ultra Fund").

- 3. The Ultra Fund illegally invested, repeatedly and over a significant period of time, in an entity or entities whose primary business constituted illegal gambling under both federal law and the law of one or more of the United States. The market value of these investments plummeted when law enforcement officials began arresting principals of, and otherwise targeting for prosecution such illegal gambling businesses. That, in turn, resulted in injury to investors like Plaintiff who had invested in the Ultra Fund, because the value of their investments in the Ultra Fund is based on the net asset value of the Ultra Fund.
- 4. Defendants are the individuals and entities responsible for causing the Ultra Fund to make the illegal investments that led to Plaintiff's injuries.
- 5. Plaintiff assert claims under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961-68 ("RICO"), as well as common law claims for breach of fiduciary duty and negligence.
- 6. Defendants, each of whom is a person or entity employed by or associated with the Ultra Fund, conducted the affairs of the fund through a pattern of racketeering. Specifically, each of the Defendants knowingly developed and implemented (or conspired to develop and implement) an investment strategy pursuant to which the Ultra Fund was caused repeatedly and over a significant period of time to purchase shares in an "illegal gambling business" as that term is used in 18 U.S.C. § 1955, which makes it a felony to "own all or part of an illegal gambling business." By causing the Ultra Fund to purchase stock in an illegal gambling business, Defendants caused the fund to become an owner of an illegal gambling business and thereby to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1955.
- 7. A violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1955 is a predicate crime under RICO. 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1)(B). Thus, by causing the Ultra Fund to purchase stock of an illegal gambling business repeatedly and over a significant period of time, Defendants conducted the affairs of the Ultra Fund through a pattern of racketeering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c). They also conspired to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d).

and services, American Century has offices in New York, Singapore and the San Francisco/Bay Area, with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri." It maintains an Investor Center at 1665 Charleston Road, Mountain View, California 94043.

- 15. Defendant ACIM serves as the investment adviser to dozens of investment companies controlled by ACC, including the Ultra Fund named as nominal defendant herein. ACIM was responsible for management of the Ultra Fund and implementing the investment strategy complained of herein on behalf of the Ultra Fund. ACIM has a principal place of business at 4500 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.
- 16. Defendant James E. Stowers ("Stowers") is Chairman of the Ultra Fund, a director and controlling shareholder of ACC, and a director of ACIM. Stowers is responsible for overseeing the investment strategy complained of herein on behalf of the Ultra Fund.
- 17. Defendant Jonathan S. Thomas ("Thomas") is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ultra Fund and has been since January 2007. He was the Executive Vice President of the Ultra Fund from November 2005 through February 2007. Thomas exercised operational or managerial oversight over the portfolio holdings of the Ultra Fund, including the investment strategy complained of herein.
- 18. Defendants Thomas A. Brown ("Brown"), Andrea C. Hall ("Hall"), Donald H. Pratt ("Pratt"), Gale A. Sayers ("Sayers"), M. Jeannine Strandjord ("Strandjord"), and Timothy S. Webster ("Webster") (collectively and together with Stowers and Thomas, the "Directors") are members of the board of directors of the Ultra Fund. Each of the Directors allowed the Ultra Fund to invest or continue its investments in an illegal gambling business. Each of the Directors had a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the shareholders of the Ultra Fund. To an even greater degree than the directors of corporations that are not mutual funds, the directors of mutual funds are responsible for protecting the funds they serve under a unique watchdog role.
- 19. Defendant William M. Lyons ("Lyons") was President of the Ultra Fund from September 2000 through January 2007. Lyons also served as the Chief Executive Officer of ACC from September 2000 through January 2007. He was primarily responsible for the day-to-

illegal gambling company, such company was an illegal gambling business because the business

of the company (a) violated the laws of one or more of the United States; (b) involved five or

At the time Defendants caused the Ultra Fund to purchase stock in an

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36.

more persons who conduct, finance, manage, supervise, direct, or own all or part of such business; and (c) had been or remained in substantially continuous operation for a period in excess of thirty days or had a gross revenue of \$2,000 in any single day.

- 37. Defendants' activities causing the Ultra Fund to make investments in an illegal gambling business constituted an open-ended, continuous pattern of racketeering activity under 28 U.S.C. § 1962(c).
- 38. Defendants conducted or caused to be conducted, or were reckless in failing to conduct or to cause to be conducted, due diligence before the Ultra Fund purchased stock in an illegal gambling business. Accordingly, Defendants each knew, or is deemed to have known, that they were causing the Ultra Fund to purchase stock of a company that was engaged in illegal gambling activities.
- 39. In or about 2006, federal and state law enforcement agencies began a crackdown on illegal gambling businesses such as the one in which Defendants had caused the Ultra Fund to invest. As a result, the stock price of the illegal gambling business which the Ultra Fund owned fell substantially, particularly as the market re-priced the value of the shares of the illegal gambling business to exclude in whole or in part revenues derived from activities which violated federal law and the laws of one or more of the United States.
- 40. As a proximate result of Defendants' acts in causing the Ultra Fund to invest in an illegal gambling business, Plaintiff was injured.
- 41. Each purchase of shares by the Ultra Fund in the gambling company caused the Ultra Fund to own all or part of an illegal gambling business.
- 42. Each purchase of shares by the Ultra Fund in the gambling company caused the Ultra Fund to finance an illegal gambling business.
- 43. In addition to conducting or participating in the conduct of the Ultra Fund's activities through a pattern of racketeering, Defendants also agreed and conspired to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c) by conducting or participating in the conduct of the affairs of the Ultra Fund through a pattern of racketeering activity within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d). Specifically:

- (b) any demand would be futile because granting such demand would be tantamount to an admission of criminal liability and substantial civil liability by the Directors; and
- (c) the Directors constitute eight of the nine directors on the board of the Ultra Fund.
- 54. To an even greater degree than directors of ordinary corporations, mutual fund directors, including Directors herein, are responsible for protecting the mutual funds' investors under a unique watchdog role. Thus, each of the Directors had a special duty to ensure that the Ultra Fund over which they served a watchdog role did not invest in illegal gambling businesses.
- 55. Directors also had a duty to ensure that the Ultra Fund had proper control mechanisms to ensure that it did not make any investments in any illegal gambling businesses.
- 56. As part of its role as investment adviser, ACC selects the persons who serve on the Ultra Fund's board of directors, including Directors herein. Accordingly, the relationship between ACC, ACIM, the Directors and the Ultra Fund is fraught with conflicts of interest.
- 57. Because a demand in this case would require the Directors to cause the Ultra Fund to sue ACC, ACIM and the Directors, the Directors are inherently conflicted from exercising independent and disinterested business judgment.
- 58. Therefore, pre-suit demand upon the Directors would have been futile because the Directors of the Ultra Fund could not have properly exercised his or her independent and disinterested business judgment in responding to a demand. Not only were they exposed to civil and criminal liability, but the relationship between the Directors, ACC, ACIM and the Ultra Fund creates a potential conflict of interest that creates a strong presumption against board independence and disinterest.
- 59. The majority of the board of directors of the Ultra Fund has a disabling interest and lack independence as set forth above.

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## (INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS CLAIMS) 2 (CIVIL RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d)) 3 77. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth 4 herein. 5 78. This claim is brought by Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the Class 6 pursuant to RICO, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961, et seq., against Defendants. 7 Each Defendant violated 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d) by conspiring and agreeing 79. 8 to conduct or participate in the conduct of the Ultra Fund's affairs through a pattern of 9 racketeering activity and for the unlawful purpose of investing in illegal gambling businesses, in 10 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c). 11 80. Pursuant to and in furtherance of their unlawful conspiracy, one or more 12 Defendants committed one or more overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy. 13 81. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conspiracy and the overt 14 acts in furtherance of such conspiracy, Plaintiff and the Class have been injured in their business 15 and property. 16 THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Individual and Class Claims) 17 (BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY) 18 82. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth 19 herein. 20 83. This claim is brought by Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the Class 21 against all Defendants. 22 84. Defendants owe a fiduciary duty to the Ultra Fund's shareholders. 23 85. Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to Plaintiff and the Class 24 by causing the Ultra Fund to invest in an illegal gambling business. 25 86. Plaintiff and the Class have been injured as a direct, proximate and 26 foreseeable result of such breach on the part of Defendants and have suffered substantial damages 27 thereby, including the loss in value of their investments and the payment, directly or indirectly, of 28

-13-VERIFIED CLASS ACTION AND DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

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1	commissions, fees and other compensation received by Defendants from the time that they first		
2	breached their fiduciary duties to Plaintiff and the Class.		
3	87. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, also seeks special injuries		
4	not belonging to the Ultra Fund. In particular, Plaintiff and the Class seek the recoupment of fees,		
5	commissions and other compensation that Plaintiff and each Class member paid to Defendants.		
6 7	Fourth Claim for Relief (Individual and Class Claims) (Negligence)		
8	88. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth		
9	herein.		
10	89. This claim is brought by Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the Class		
11	against all Defendants.		
12	90. Defendants owe a duty to the Ultra Fund's shareholders to exercise		
13	reasonable care with respect the Ultra Fund's investments.		
14	91. Defendants breached their duty of care to the Ultra Fund's shareholders by		
15	causing the Ultra Fund to invest in an illegal gambling business.		
16	92. As a proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff and the Class		
17	have been damaged.		
18	FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (DERIVATIVE CLAIM)		
19	(Civil Rico, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c))		
20	93. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth		
21	herein.		
22	94. This claim is brought by Plaintiff derivatively on behalf of the Ultra Fund		
23	pursuant to RICO, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961(c), against Defendants separately and distinctly from her		
24	claims individually and on behalf of the Class only to the extent that the claims and relief sought		
25	herein belong to the Ultra Fund and not to the Class.		
26	95. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' racketeering activities and		
27	violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c), the Ultra Fund has been injured in its business and property.		
28	-14-		
	VEDICIED CLASS ACTION AND DEBIVATIVE COMBLAINT AND HIDL DEMAND		

## SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF 1 (DERIVATIVE CLAIM) 2 (CIVIL RICO, 18 U.S.C. § 1962(d)) 3 Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth 96. 4 herein. 5 97. This claim is brought by Plaintiff derivatively on behalf of the Ultra Fund 6 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1961(d), against Defendants separately and distinctly from her claims 7 individually and on behalf of the Class only to the extent that the claims and the relief sought 8 herein belong to the Ultra Fund and not to the Class. 9 98. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conspiracy and the overt 10 acts in furtherance of such conspiracy, the Ultra Fund has been injured in its business and 11 property. 12 SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF (DERIVATIVE CLAIM) 13 (BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY) 14 99. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth 15 herein. 16 100. This claim is brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the Ultra Fund against 17 Defendants separately and distinctly from Plaintiff's claims individually and on behalf of the 18 Class only to the extent that the claims and relief sought herein belong to the Ultra Fund and not 19 to the Class. 20 Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to the Ultra Fund by 21 causing the Ultra Fund to invest in an illegal gambling business. 22 102. The Ultra Fund has been injured as a direct, proximate and foreseeable 23 result of such breach on the part of Defendants and has suffered substantial damages thereby. 24 **EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF** (DERIVATIVE CLAIM) 25 (NEGLIGENCE) 26 103. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as if fully set forth 27 herein. 28 -15-

, ]	b)	Compensatory damages for the Offia Fund representing the reduction in	
2		value of its investments resulting from Defendants' wrongful conduct;	
3	c)	Forfeiture and disgorgement of any commissions, fees or profits received	
4		by Defendants from the time of their first wrongful conduct;	
5	ď)	Treble damages;	
6	e)	Punitive damages;	
7	f)	Recovery of Plaintiff's attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, and costs and	
8		disbursements of suit;	
9	g)	Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and	
10	h)	Such other and further relief to which Plaintiff is deemed entitled by the	
11		Court and/or the jury.	
12		JURY DEMAND	
13	Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues to triable.		
14	Dated: August 18,	2008	
15			
16		Crystal G. Howard (SBN 224627)	
17		John Bruegger (SBN 250494) SIMMONSCOOPER LLC	
18		100 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 1350	
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20 <b>j</b>		choward@simmonscooper.com	
21	·	jbruegger@simmonscooper.com	
22		- and —	
23		Kenneth J. Brennan	
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27	•	and	
28 [		17	

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

## **VERIFICATION**

LAURA SEIDL states:

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I am the Plaintiff in this action. I have read the foregoing complaint. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry.

**Laura Seidl** 

Date: July 29, 2008

VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

END